

In memoriam Piet Rietveld

Peter Nijkamp¹,

Department of Spatial Economics, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands

Below you will find an 'In memoriam' concerning Piet Rietveld, who until his recent passing away was member of EJTIR's Editorial Advisory Board (EAB). The In Memoriam is written by Peter Nijkamp, chairman of the EAB. As EAB member, Piet has contributed to EJTIR right from the journal's inception. He did so in the form of providing highly valued advice on strategic issues - such as our transformation towards an open-access e-journal in 2005; and also as a dedicated referee of papers submitted to EJTIR. As a referee, Piet showed a very clear eye for the (lack of) quality and relevance of papers, and always delivered his review reports well before the deadline.

On behalf of our Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for Piet's interest in and substantial contributions to EJTIR. As a colleague, and for not few of us also as a friend, Piet will be sorely missed.

Caspar Chorus
Editor-in-Chief
European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research

In Memoriam Piet Rietveld

Piet Rietveld passed away on November 1, 2013 at the young age of 60 years. He was one of the most prominent transportation economists, not only in the Netherlands but world-wide. In this *In Memoriam* I will sketch his main scientific contributions.

His scientific work can be characterized by: a broad coverage of the spatial-economic domain and a focus on quantitative-analytical research tools. He was not a narrow transportation economist, but rather a more general spatial economist who had also a broad interest in many fields, such as labour markets, housing markets, development issues, decision models and so forth. From his broad scholarly perspective, he was able to offer a wealth of innovative contributions to transport economics. His path-breaking research was mainly characterized by the use of advanced statistical and econometric methods. His solid and carefully crafted publications appeared in many prestigious journals all over the world. In this way, he was able to obtain a leading and recognized position in his field. The volume of his publications is breath-taking: they amount to around 900.

His research interests were wide-ranging, but in retrospect it is possible to identify at least three major strands of scientific interest:

- Valuation of quality and service in transportation:

¹ A: De Boelelaan 11105, 1081HV Amsterdam, Netherlands T: +31-20-598-6090 F: +31-20-598-6004
E: pniijkamp@feweb.vu.nl

This research field has been developed by him in a solid quantitative way by addressing complicated issues such as the importance of environmental quality, the relevance of reliability and quality in trip choice, or the significance of landscape or ecology in infrastructure development. He made important contributions to multi-criteria decision tools, revealed preference methods and stated preference techniques.

- Transport and spatial development:

This domain can be positioned at the interface of transportation and regional economics. He offered original perspectives on the importance of infrastructure and regional growth, in particular, on the network effects of infrastructure improvements and on the importance of public transport. In this context, he also published several noteworthy articles on border effects in Europe, on spatial disparity effects and on the importance of aviation networks.

- Transport markets, in the context of market failure and government failure:

He offered seminal contributions to a better understanding of environmental externalities, congestion, market power and, in particular, institutional effectiveness. He developed new concepts on congestion pricing, toll roads and applied welfare theory, including the economic importance of information provision to travelers.

There is hardly any topic in the transport economics field in which he has not published. All his articles are solid, original, systematic, analytical-quantitative, but never too technical. He was undoubtedly one of the leading scholars in his field.

His scientific talent was reflected in memberships of editorial boards of several journals, in his editorship of several books in his research domain, in his role as supervisor of many Ph D theses, and in his uninterrupted interest in offering the best possible education to his students. He is a role model for us all. The transportation field has lost a great scholar.

Peter Nijkamp

Department of Spatial Economics

VU University Amsterdam

Chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board

European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research